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Man Sentenced to Jail for Fatal Car Crash in Wilmington

A 19-year-old man was sentenced today to 365 days in county jail and five years of formal probation after he was convicted of participating in a street race that resulted in the death of two people, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On April 7, Carlos Hernandez (dob 1/11/97) pleaded no contest to three felony counts in case NA101582: two counts of reckless driving on a highway causing a specified injury and one count of vehicular manslaughter.

At today's sentencing, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Gary J. Ferrari also ordered the defendant to participate in a hospital and morgue program and attend classes that address the consequences of reckless driving.

A restitution hearing is scheduled for July 27 in Department S23 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch.

Deputy District Attorney Brian Kang, who prosecuted the case, said on the afternoon of Jan. 29, 2015, Hernandez and victim Elexis Garcia, 18, engaged in a street race on Pacific Coast Highway in Wilmington.

Elexis Garcia had three passengers in her car, including her brother and two friends, the prosecutor added.

During the street race in which both drivers drove at excessive speeds, the defendant's truck suddenly moved sideways in the direction of Garcia's lane as her car was catching up. The victim then lost control of her vehicle and veered into oncoming traffic, the prosecutor said.

Elexis Garcia and her brother died during the crash, while her two other passengers suffered serious injuries, according to the prosecutor.

Hernandez was subsequently arrested in connection with the incident.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.